

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 771 without my signature.

Public participation and transparency in government are essential for its efficient exercise and proper function. This bill directs the California Coastal Commission to revise its ex-parte communications standards, alters the timelines for notification, develop guidelines for reporting these communications, post these memoranda on the internet website, and include these memoranda as attachments to staff reports.

This bill lacks proper oversight of the process and is unnecessary. Because this measure exempts these new ex-parte policies from the required oversight, due process and mandatory public participation provided by the Administrative Procedures Act it could result in less public participation and transparency in the process. The Coastal Commission already has specific ex-parte communication rules that go beyond the public disclosure requirements in the Government Code that are followed by most other boards and commissions. The Coastal Commission also has authority to amend or alter their policies, rules and regulations.

For these reasons I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely

Arnold Schwarzenegger